GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1844
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
HAZE OF ASIAN BROWN CLOUD
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY;PRAKASH V. PATIL;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Global Ministerial Environmental Forum at its recent meeting held in Nairobi have expressed serious concern about haze of Asian Brown Cloud (ABC) hanging over the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly the manner in which the cloud gathered;

(c) whether the ABC adversely affects human health, crop yields and rainfall pattern of the India sub-continent; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a),(b),(c) and (d) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum a its recent meeting held in Nairobi discussed the issue of Asian Brown Cloud.The Asian Brown Cloud mentioned in the UNEP study refers to the haze observed in the Indian Ocean Research Experiment (INDOEX). The haze is not only characteristic of the Asiar region but is also observed over other parts of the world as well. The haze is not a permanent feature of the atmosphere and occurs only during January - March, the season in which INDOEX observations were made in1999Most of the concerns expressed in the UNEP study are not well substantiated by reliable modeling exercises or experimental observations.The impact of haze on climate and weather patterns of the region, on the rainfall and crop yields and on human health is not well founded. The existing legal and policy framework, supported by several initiatives to protect and improve the environment, addresses the concerns of air pollution in the country.